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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED BOAT LAUNCHING  
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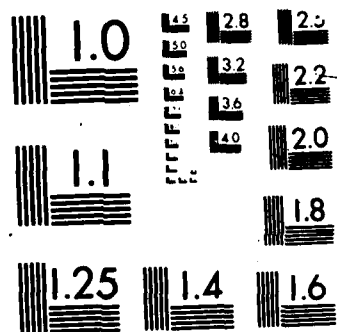
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An Archaeological Survey of a Proposed  
Boat Launching Complex in Guttenberg,  
Iowa

1978

Philip H. Salkin  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul, Minnesota

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| <p>The author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed boat landing complex in Guttenberg, Iowa. The project area is located on the west bank of Pool 11 of the Mississippi River, approximately 0.5 miles downstream from Lock and Dam No. 10. The proposed right-of-way concerns 5 acres of floodplain. The work will include construction of a boat ramp, comfort station, a parking lot and some fill.</p> <p>Seven test units were excavated in the floodplain area. All seven yielded soil horizons of wet sandy-clay loam. No archaeological materials were recovered. On the basis of the physiography of the project area, and the absence of local knowledge of archaeological or historic sites, the author would conclude that the construction will not pose a threat to the archaeological resources of the area.</p> |       |  |   |  |                             |
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On 29 and 30 June 1978 the author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed boat landing complex in Guttenberg, Iowa. Guttenberg is located in Jefferson Township, in the southeastern corner of Clayton County. The project area is located on the west bank of Pool 11 of the Mississippi River, at the approximate river mile 614.5. The site is approximately 0.5 miles downstream from Lock and Dam No. 10 (see Maps 1 and 2).

The proposed right-of-way concerns 5 acres of floodplain at approximately 612 feet elevation. The area presently floods 10 to 11 days during the recreation season (U. S. Army Corps Report 1978:3). The work will include construction of a boat ramp, a comfort station, a parking lot and some filling.

Four of the five acres are covered with Type 6 wetland, while 0.5 acres are covered with Type 3 wetland. The remaining 0.5 acres consist of sideslope, where the right-of-way will cross a narrow park to link the floodplain area with the streets of the ridge above. Miners Creek dissects the proposed construction area, with most of the five acres lying to the east of the creek.

#### Methods

It was obvious that the proposed construction area was very low and wet. Therefore, the survey method used was one of walking the area and ascertaining that it was a marsh with areas of open water. In addition, eight test units were excavated to sample the soils.

### Previous Archaeological Work

A survey of relevant literature and files indicated that no historic or prehistoric sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register have been found in the proposed project area. An old button factory, which may have some historical significance, is located directly to the north of the project area. This button factory is no longer functioning and the building is currently part of a boat leasing concern. It may also be noted that long-time residents of the area are not familiar with any archaeological materials or historic structures in the project area.

### The Survey

A survey on foot of the project area east of Miners Creek indicated that this was the wettest area in the project limits. The vegetation cover included primarily high grasses, sedges and some low-growing willows. The author excavated two test units on the highest, driest area that could be found. The soil profiles were as follows:

#### Test Unit #1

Size: 55x55cm

Soil Profile: 0-50cm+ deep--dark, sandy-clay loam  
groundwater at 40cm

#### Test Unit #2

Size: 55x55cm

Soil Profile: 0-47cm+ deep--dark, sandy-clay loam  
groundwater at 33cm

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No archaeological materials were found in either unit.

Six other test units were excavated in the project area on the west side of Miners Creek. The first of these was excavated on the top of the ridge-levee area, directly across from Herman Street. Here, an access road will cut across the narrow, grassy park area. This small zone was the most likely to contain any aboriginal or historic remains as it is approximately 20-25 feet above the floodplain. The soil profile from this unit was as follows:

Test Unit #3

Size: 65x60cm

Soil Profile: 0-84cm deep--black sand and fill  
84-100cm+ deep--brown sand and small pebbles

No archaeological materials were recovered.

Another test unit was excavated at the foot of the levee, below Test Unit #3. The soil profile was as follows:

Test Unit #4

Size: 50x50cm

Soil Profile: 0-33cm deep--dark, sandy-clay loam  
33-60cm+ deep--brown sand

Approximately 15 meters to the southeast of Test Unit #4, in the marshy area, another test unit was excavated, which yielded the following profile:

Test Unit #5

Size: 50x50cm

Soil Profile: 0-45cm+ deep--dark, sandy-clay loam  
groundwater at 45cm

No archaeological materials were recovered from either test unit.

Three more test units were excavated in the northern part of the section of the project area west of Miners Creek. These test units would be those closest to the button factory, although still some distance away. They may be summarized as follows:

Test Unit #6

Size: 50x50cm

Soil Profile: 0-26cm deep--brown sand  
26-31cm deep--black sand  
31-77cm+ deep--brown sand  
groundwater at 70cm

Test Unit #7

Size: 50x50cm

Soil Profile: 0-40cm deep--brown sand  
40-60cm deep--black sand  
60-72cm+ deep--gleyed sand  
groundwater at 70cm

Test Unit #8

Size: 50x50cm

Soil Profile: 0-28cm deep--brown sand  
26-68cm+ deep--black sand  
groundwater at 60cm

No archaeological materials were recovered from these units.

Summary and Recommendations

In June 1978 the author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed boat launching site in Guttenberg, Iowa. The projected 5 acre site is almost all wetland, covered with marsh vegetation and with a high water table. A creek dissects the area. The site is flooded 10 or 11 days during the recreation season. This would have tended to discourage intensive historical or aboriginal utilization of the proposed project area.



Seven test units were excavated in the floodplain area. All seven yielded soil horizons of wet sandy-clay loams. No archaeological materials were recovered. An additional test unit was excavated on the levee above the floodplain. This unit yielded a partially disturbed profile and no archaeological materials.

On the basis of the physiography of the project area, the excavation of the test units and the absence of local knowledge of archaeological or historic sites in the project area, the author would conclude that the construction of the boat ramp, rest station, parking area and associated filling in Guttenberg, Iowa, will not pose a threat to the archaeological resources of the area.

#### Curation

No archaeological materials were recovered during the course of this survey. All notes are curated by the author at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

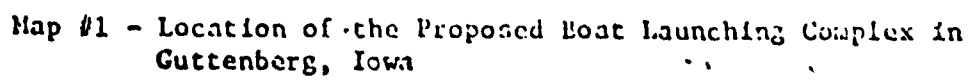
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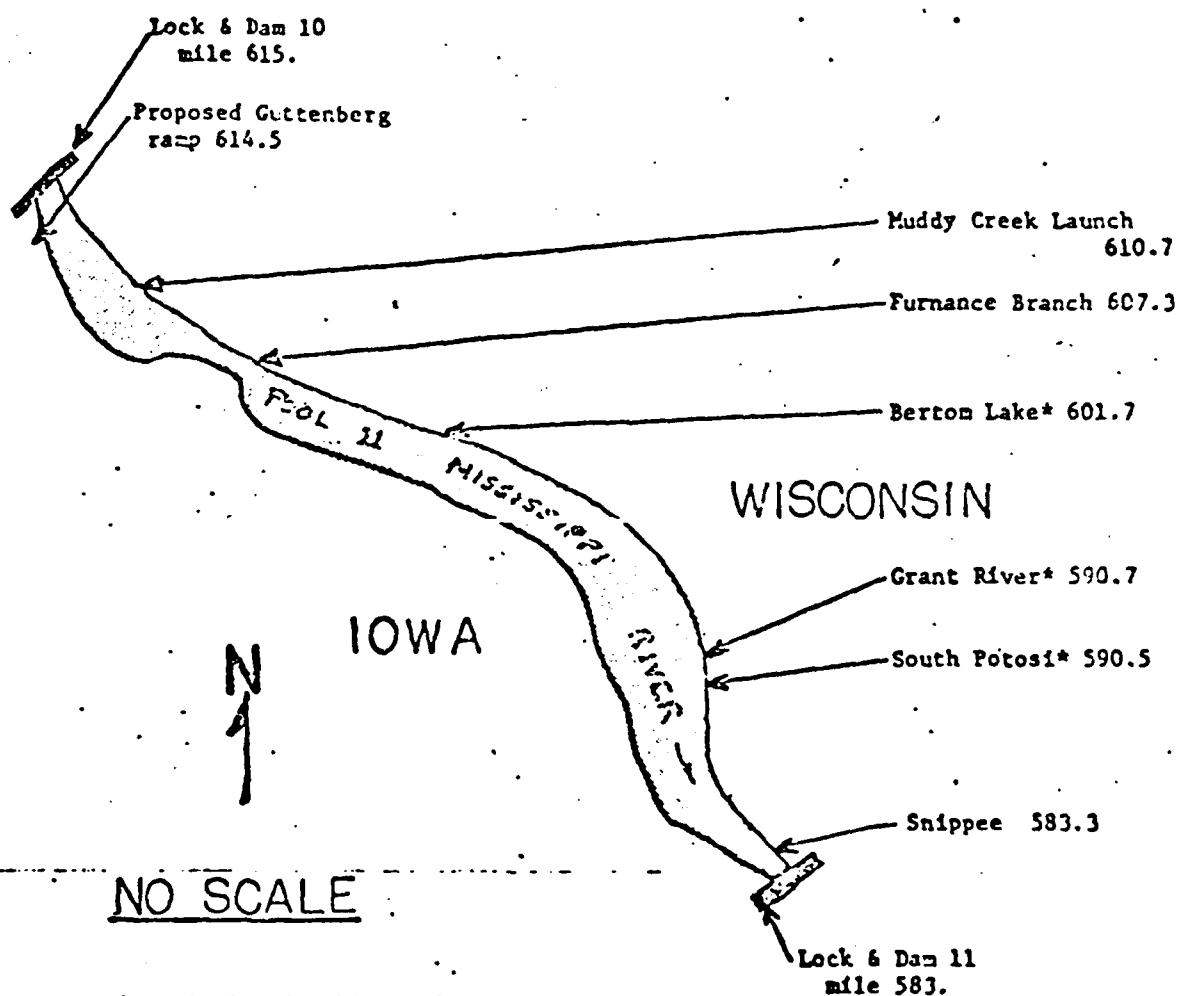
1978 Plan of Development, Guttenberg Landing, Mississippi  
River - Pool 11, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1978 Environmental Assessment, Guttenberg Landing, Mississippi  
River - Pool 11, St. Paul District, Corp of Engineers.



# Boat Launching Areas



NO SCALE

\* existing facilities (ramps)

Plate #2 - The Proposed Boat Launching Complex in Guttenberg  
- Iowa in Relation to other launching sites in Pool 11.

END

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